

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 3, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4 6 and 7 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A message processing apparatus for receiving and displaying e-mail messages sent from a sending end to a receiving end, the e-mail messages having at least a header, a title, and a body, the apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving an e-mail message sent from the sending end;  
a keyword lookup table that associates predefined keywords with handler  
programs, the keywords representing a characteristic of the e-mail messages, such as  
worthiness or urgency;

key information extraction means for extracting key information  
from examining the title or body of the e-mail message received by said reception  
means, means with reference to said keyword lookup table to determine whether the received  
e-mail message contains any one of the keywords defined in the keyword lookup table; the  
key information being contained in the title or body of the message as part of attribute data  
thereof and used to identify a predetermined handler program relevant to the message;

program loading means, disposed at the receiving end, for consulting said  
keyword lookup table to load one of the predetermined handler programs

that is associated with the key informationkeyword found in the received e-mail message;

and

execution ~~means~~means, disposed at the receiving end, for executing the predetermined handler program loaded by said loading means at prescribed times.

2. (Currently amended) The message processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the handler program provides at least one primitive process; and  
said execution means selectively executes some of the primitive processes,  
depending on events that may occur subsequently to the reception of the e-mail message.

3. Canceled.

4. (Currently amended) The message processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

~~the attribute data further includes~~the key information accompanies a predetermined argument: and

said execution means executes the handler program, referring to the argument.

5. (Original) The message processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the handler programs are stored in a distributing station; and  
the message processing apparatus further comprises downloading means for  
downloading the handler programs from the distribution station.

6. (Currently amended) The message processing apparatus according  
to claim 5, wherein:

~~said program loading means has a table that defines relationships between the  
key information and the handler programs associated therewith;~~

~~said program loading means consults the table to select and load one of the  
handler programs that is associated with the given key information; and~~

~~said downloading means downloads the keyword lookup table from the  
distributing station, together with the handler programs.~~

7. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a  
computer program for receiving and displaying e-mail messages sent from a sending end, the  
e-mail messages having at least a header, a title, and a body, the computer program being  
designed to run on a computer in order to cause the computer to function as:

reception means for receiving aan e-mail message sent from the sending end;  
a keyword lookup table that associates predefined keywords with handler  
programs, the keywords representing worthiness or urgency of the e-mail messages;

key information extraction means for extracting key information from examining the title or body of the e-mail message received by said reception means, means with reference to said keyword lookup table to determine whether the received e-mail message contains any one of the keywords defined in the keyword lookup table; the key information being contained in the title or body of the message as part of attribute data thereof and used to identify a predetermined handler program relevant to the message;

program loading means, disposed at the receiving end, for consulting said keyword lookup table and loading one of the predetermined handler programs that is associated with the key information keyword found in the received e-mail message; and

execution means, disposed at the receiving end, for executing the predetermined handler program loaded by said loading means at prescribed times.